



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

August 13, 2010

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MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
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To: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "W. T. Fujioka", written over a horizontal line.

MOTION TO SEND A FIVE-SIGNATURE LETTER TO LEGISLATIVE LEADERS IN SACRAMENTO IN SUPPORT OF A FUNDING INCREASE FOR COUNTY VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICES (ITEM NO. 7, AGENDA OF AUGUST 17, 2010)

Item No. 7 on the August 17, 2010 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Knabe recommending that the Board of Supervisors send a five-signature letter to legislative leaders in Sacramento in support of a funding increase for County Veterans' Service Offices (CVSO) with a copy to Governor Schwarzenegger.

In 1997, SB 608 (Chapter 318) was enacted and the original intent of the legislation was to establish a funding mechanism for the State to share equally with counties the costs of the CVSO. However, the State historically has not allocated its share of funding for the CVSO Program. CVSO in California are primarily funded by county general funds, with 85 percent of the operating costs provided by counties and the remaining 15 percent provided by the State.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (MVA) indicates that for every dollar provided by the State, CVSO are able to leverage Federal funds to be used in assisting Veterans, their dependents and survivors, thus reducing costs for the State and the County. Every year, nearly 30,000 veterans return to California, and the CVSO provide services that consist of a comprehensive reintegration initiative that seeks out recently returned veterans to connect them with benefits and services. Services are also provided to veterans' widows, children of deceased or disabled veterans and parents who lost a son or daughter in military service.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"

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The Governor included \$8.4 million in new CVSO funding in the FY 2010-11 May Budget Revision. However, the Budget Conference Committee recently acted to reduce that funding by approximately \$800,000. The MVA is in support of the Governor's May Revision proposal because of the positive fiscal benefits to the County's CVSO and the need to continue these valuable programs for those who volunteered to serve their country.

Support for this motion is consistent with Board approved policy to support increased efforts for training, employment opportunities, mental health, placement and employment and other essential assistance to those who honorably serve in our armed forces.

WTF:RA
MR:RM:er

c: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel